

SEE  
INSIDE



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UNIVERSE.COM

# GIVEN

Premiums-Cash

BOYS - GIRLS

Mail  
Coupon  
Today

OUR  
55th  
YEAR



BE  
FIRST  
Act Now  
WE ARE  
RELIABLE

Genuine 22 Cal. Rifles, 1000 Shot Daisy Air Rifles (with tube of Shot) sent postage paid. Many other Premiums or Cash Commission now easily yours.

**SIMPLY GIVE** art pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE easily sold at 25 cents a box (with picture) and remit amount asked under Premium shown in catalog sent with your order postage paid by us to start. Wilson

Chem. Co., Dept. A-53, Tyrone, Pa.

# GIVEN

Premiums-Cash

Wrist Watches, Pocket Watches, Pen & Pencil Sets (sent postage paid). Many other valuable Premiums or Cash Commission now easily yours. **SIMPLY GIVE** beautiful pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE easily sold at 25 cents a box (with picture) and remit amount asked under Premium shown in catalog sent with your order postage paid by us to start. Wilson Chemical Co., Dept. B-53, Tyrone, Pa.

# GIVEN

Premiums-Cash

BOYS - GIRLS

Mail  
Coupon  
Today

OUR  
55th  
YEAR

BE  
FIRST  
Act Now  
WE ARE  
RELIABLE

1000 Shot Daisy Air Rifles (with Tube of Shot) 22 Cal. Rifles, Footballs, Baseballs (sent postage paid). Many other Premiums or Cash Commission now easily yours. **SIMPLY GIVE** beautiful art pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE easily sold at 25 cents a box (with picture) and remit amount asked under Premium shown in catalog sent with your order postage paid by us to start. Be first. Wilson Chemical Co., Dept. C-53, Tyrone, Pa.

## Premiums or Cash Given



ACT  
NOW



### MAIL COUPON

Boys-Girls - Lovable fully dressed Dolls over 15" in height, Radios, Flashlights, Electric Record Players, Watches, (sent postage paid), **SIMPLY GIVE** pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE for chaps, and mild burns and easily sold to friends, neighbors, relatives at 25 cents a box (with picture) and remit per catalog sent with starting order postage paid by us. Wilson Chem. Co., Dept. D-53, Tyrone, Pa.

## GIVEN - - GIVEN PREMIUMS or CASH COMMISSION

Our 55th Year

ACT  
NOW



Complete School Boxes, Candid Cameras with Carrying Cases (sent postage paid). Other Premiums or Cash Commission now easily yours. **SIMPLY GIVE** beautiful pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE easily sold at 25 cents a box (with picture) and remit amount asked under Premium shown in catalog sent with your order, postage paid by us to start. Our 55th Year. We are reliable. Act now! WILSON CHEM. CO., Dept. G-53, TYRONE, PA.

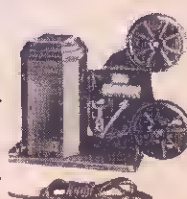
## Premiums - GIVEN - Cash

ACT  
NOW

Boys - Girls  
Ladies - Men



Our  
55th  
Year



Be  
First  
ACT  
NOW

Pocket Watches, Movie Projectors with reel of film (sent postage paid). Many other Premiums or Cash Commission now easily yours. **SIMPLY GIVE** art pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE easily sold at 25 cents a box (with picture) and remit amount asked under Premium shown in catalog sent with your order postage paid by us to start. We are reliable. Our 55th Year. Act now. WILSON CHEM. CO., Dept. E-53, TYRONE, PA.

## Premiums - GIVEN - Cash



Our 55th  
Year

BE  
FIRST

MAIL  
COUPON

Wrist Watches, Pocket Watches, Footballs (sent postage paid). Other Premiums or Cash Commission now easily yours. **GIVE** pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE easily sold at 25 cents a box (with picture) and remit per catalog sent with starting order. WILSON CHEMICAL CO., Dept. F-53, TYRONE, PA.

## MAIL COUPON TODAY

Wilson Chem. Co., Dept. CH 53, Tyrone, Pa. Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Gentlemen:—Please send me on trial 12 colorful art pictures with 12 boxes of White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE to sell at 25c a box (with picture). I will remit amount within 30 days, select a Premium or keep Cash Commission as fully explained under Premium wanted in catalog sent with my order postage paid to start.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_

ST \_\_\_\_\_ R.D. \_\_\_\_\_ BOX \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ ZONE \_\_\_\_\_

Print Last \_\_\_\_\_ NO. \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

Name Here \_\_\_\_\_

Paste on a postal card or mail in an envelope NOW

# the BLACK DIAMOND

AND THE RAILROAD WAR!



CROSS THE OPEN RANGE IN THE 1860'S CAME THE RAILROAD, CHANGING WILDERNESS INTO HOMES, STEADS, TOWNS, AND FINALLY CITIES! BUT THERE WERE MANY WHO OPPOSED THIS PROGRESS, AND BACKED IT UP WITH STEEL FORCE! RIDE WITH BOB VALE, THE BLACK DIAMOND, AS HE FIGHTS THE RAILROAD WAR!!

COME ON,  
RELIAPON!!  
YOU CAN'T  
FAIL ME  
NOW!!

LOOK, LOOK!  
A RUNAWAY!!

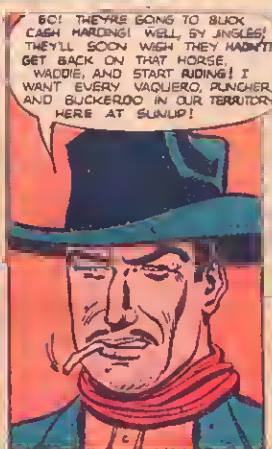
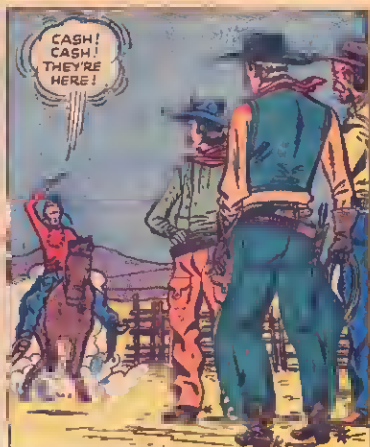
IT'S THE  
EXPLOSIVE  
TRAIN!!

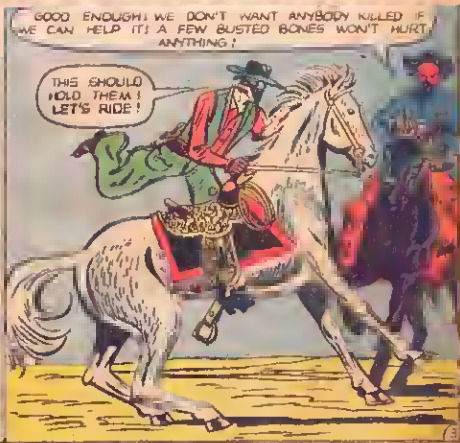
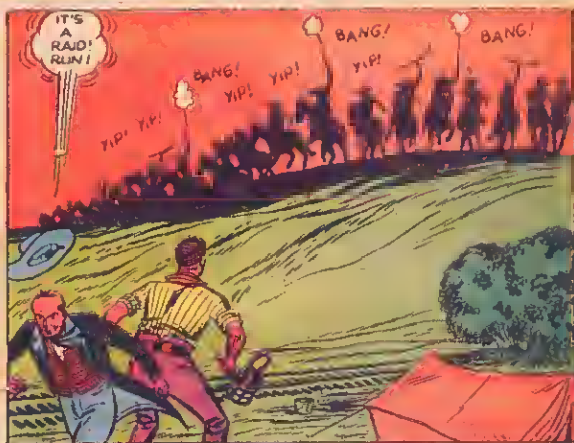
RUN  
FOR YOUR  
LIVES!!

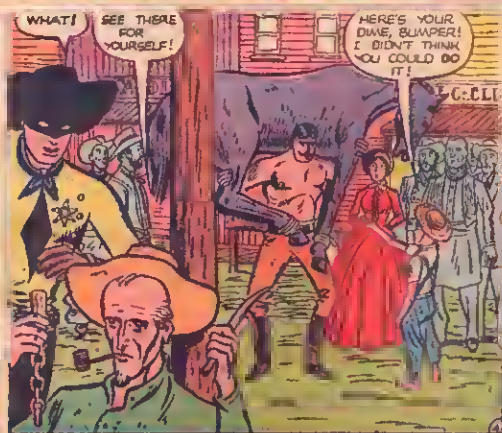
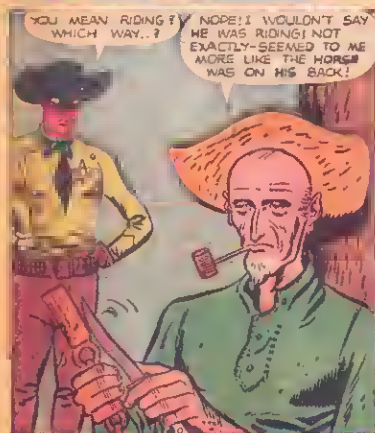
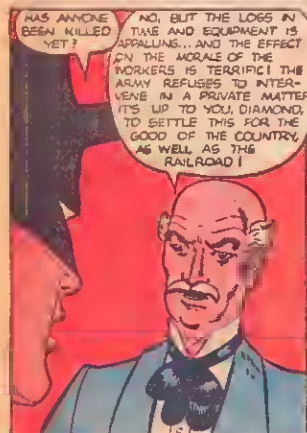
HELP!!  
HELP!!

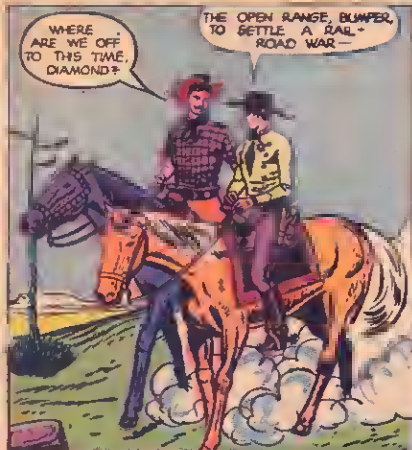
A RUNAWAY EXPLOSIVE TRAIN ROARS DOWN THE TRACK AT FULL STEAM, STRAIGHT FOR THE CENTER OF TOWN AND ANOTHER ENGINE! RACING ALONGSIDE IN AN ATTEMPT TO SWING ABOARD AND AVERT TRAGEDY, IS THE BLACK DIAMOND ON VALIANT RELIAPON...ONE SUP AND THE TOWN IS DOOMED!

By William  
OVERGARD









WHERE ARE WE OFF TO THIS TIME, DIAMOND?

THE OPEN RANGE, BUMPER TO BUMPER. A RAILROAD WAR—



RAILROAD WAR, BUT HAVE THEY GOT ANY IDEA WHO'S BEHIND IT?

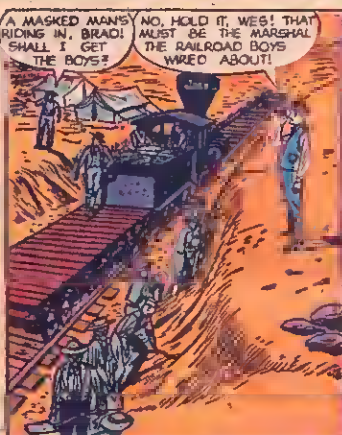


IT'S THE CATTLEMEN IN THE AREA! THEY THINK THE RAILROAD IS INVADING THEIR RANGES TO BRING SQUATTERS AND INTERLOPERS—THEY DON'T REALIZE THAT THE RAILROAD WILL ALSO BE USED FOR THEIR BENEFIT, TO SHIP CATTLE TO MARKET!



AREN'T WE ALMOST THERE, BOB?

THAT SHOULD BE SMOKE FROM THE WORKING PARTY UP AHEAD! COME ON!



A MASKED MAN'S RIDING IN, BRAD! SHALL I GET THE BOYS?

NO, HOLD IT, WE! THAT MUST BE THE MARSHAL THE RAILROAD BOYS WROTE ABOUT!



...AND THAT'S THE STORY, MR. MARSHALL! WHEN THEY HIT, IT'S HARD AND FAST! IT'S ALL OVER BEFORE WE KNOW IT—AND THE DAMAGE THEY DO IN ONE NIGHT TAKES WEEKS TO REPAIR! COME ON—I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT I MEAN!



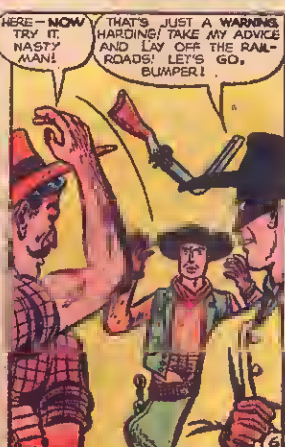
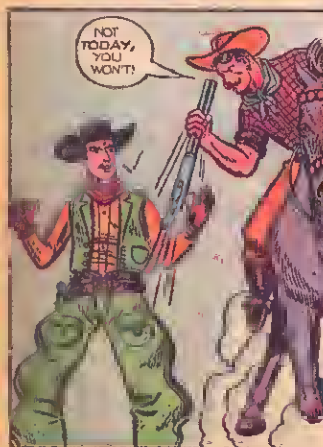
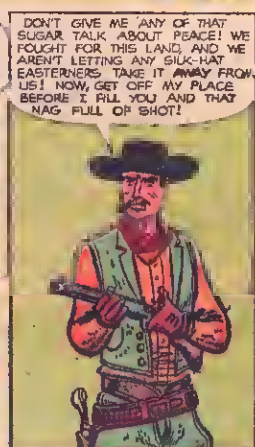
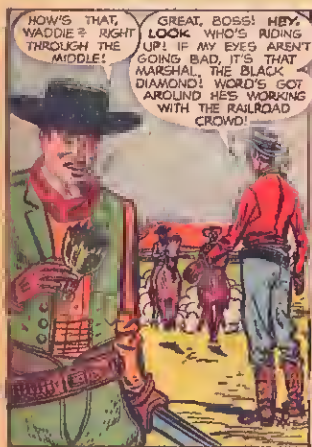
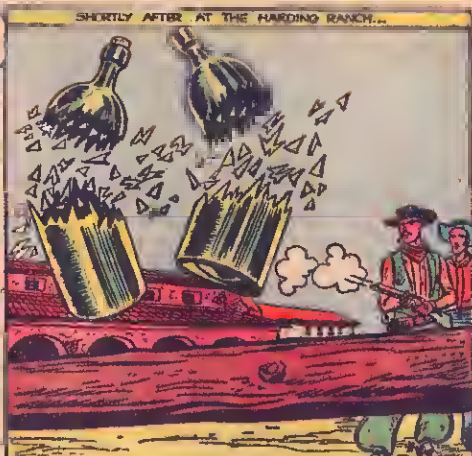
ARE YOU SURE THAT IT'S CASH HARDING WHO'S BEHIND THIS?

POSITIVE! RAIDING PARTIES ARE NOTHING NEW TO HIM! REMEMBER, HE WAS WITH QUANTRELL'S REBELS DURING THE WAR—BUT COME ON, WE'VE GOT BETTER PROOF!



THIS HORSE WAS CAPTURED, LUCKILY, DURING THE LAST RAID! SEE THE BRAND!

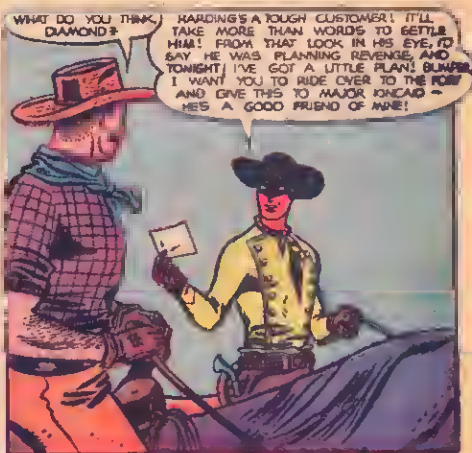
C.H.! THAT'S CASH HARDING'S MARK ALL RIGHT—I GUESS WE COULDN'T ASK FOR BETTER PROOF!





THAT BLASTED SMART-ALECK MARSHALL, BY THUNDER, I'LL SHOW HIM! WADDIE! GET THE WORD GOING—WE'RE RIDING TONIGHT!

RIGHT, BOSS!



WHAT DO YOU THINK, DIAMOND?

HARDING'S A TOUGH CUSTOMER! I'LL TAKE MORE THAN WORDS TO SETTLE HIM! FROM THAT LOOK IN HIS EYE, TO SAY HE WAS PLANNING REVENGE, AND TONIGHT I'VE GOT A LITTLE PLAN! BUMPER I WANT YOU TO RIDE OVER TO THE FORT AND GIVE THIS TO MAJOR JONCAID—HE'S A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE!



AND HURRY, CAUSE I'VE GOT A FEELING THE RAID IS GOING TO COME, OFF TONIGHT! MEAN-TIME, I'LL GET THE BOYS READY AT CAMP!

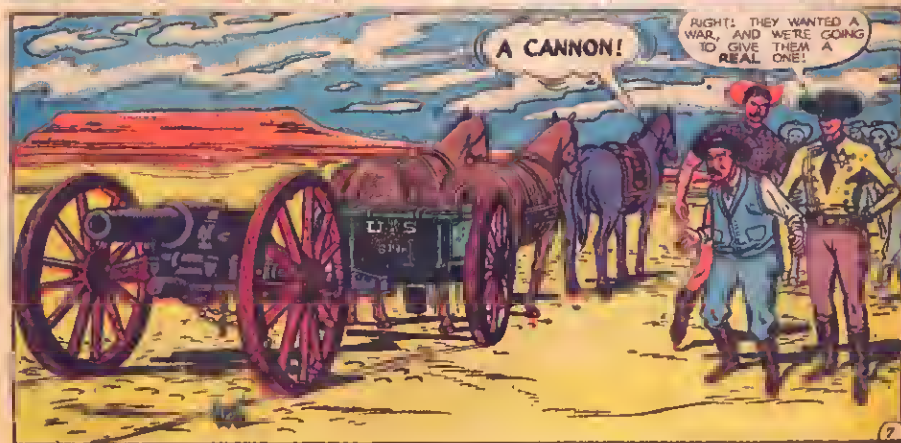


EVERYTHING SET, BRAD?

YEP! WE'VE GOT THE WIRES STRETCHED OUT IN FRONT OF CAMP, AND I BROUGHT TWO BARRELS OF BUCKSHOT FROM TOWN—BUT WHY?

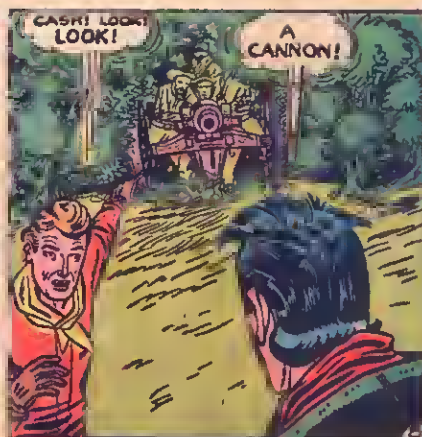
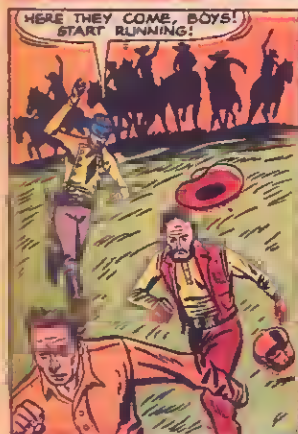
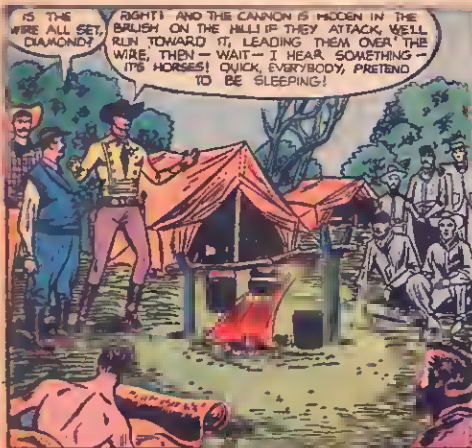


WE'VE GOT NEITHER MEN NOR ARMS TO FIGHT THEM ON EQUAL TERMS, SO WE'RE GOING TO TRY SOMETHING A LITTLE DIFFERENT! AH, HERE COMES BUMPER WITH THE LAST INGREDIENT IN OUR PLOT!

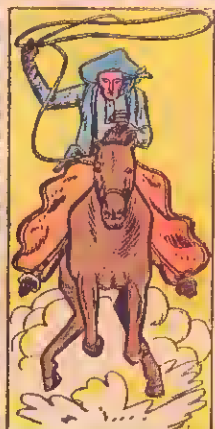
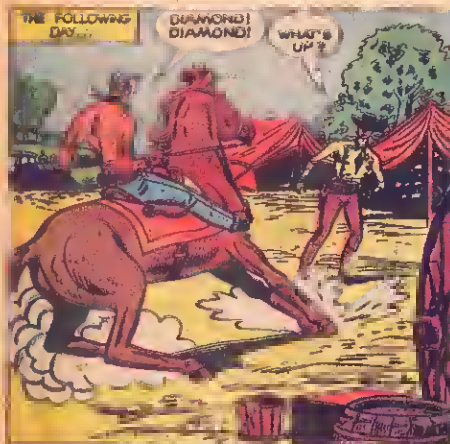


A CANNON!

RIGHT! THEY WANTED A WAR, AND WE'RE GOING TO GIVE THEM A REAL ONE!







BEFORE THE RIDER CAN GIVE ABOARD AND STOP IT, THE TRAIN STEAMS ON THE NARROW TRESTLE...



AFTER IT, YOU FOOLS!  
IT'S TOO LATE! IT'S ON THE TRESTLE!  
IT'S A RUNAWAY, NOW! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!



LOOK-UP ON THE HILL, BOSS! IT'S THE BLACK DIAMOND!



WHAT! WHY THAT BLASTED SNOOPER! I'LL FIX HIM!

HOLD IT, CASH! DON'T FORGET HE'S A GOVERNMENT MARSHAL!



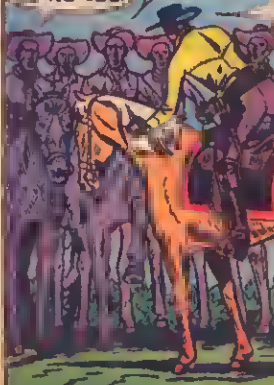
HARDING! WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE'S THAT TRAIN GOING AT FULL SPEED!

JUST A LITTLE ACCIDENT! WHEN WE RODED THE ENGINEER HE CAME OUT A LITTLE FAST AND KICKED THE THROTTLE! EVERYBODY ELSE JUMPED OFF--NO HARM DONE!



NO HARM DONE! WHY, YOU DIRTY RAT! IT'S HEADING FULL-BLAST FOR TOWN. AND THERE'S ANOTHER TRAIN WAITING THERE! WHEN THOSE TWO MEET--AND THAT LOAD OF EXPLOSIVES GOES OFF, THERE WON'T BE ENOUGH OF THAT TOWN WORTH PICKING UP!

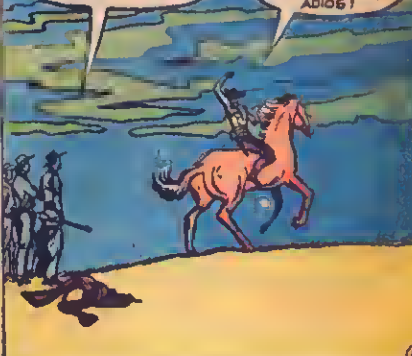
HOLY SMOKE! MY WIFE AND ARE THERE!



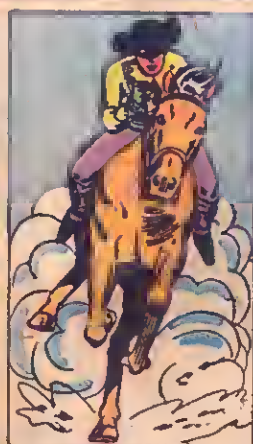
(AND MY KUN!)

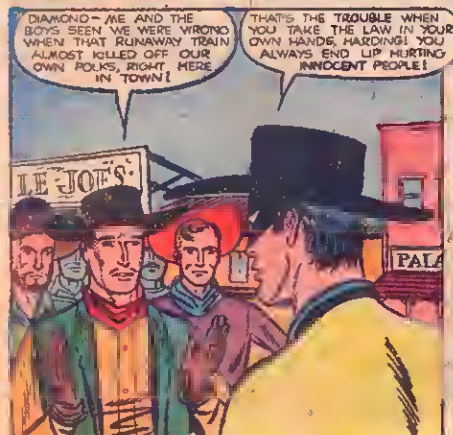
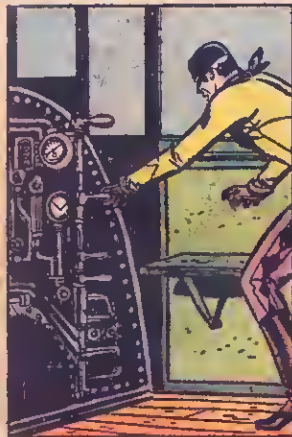
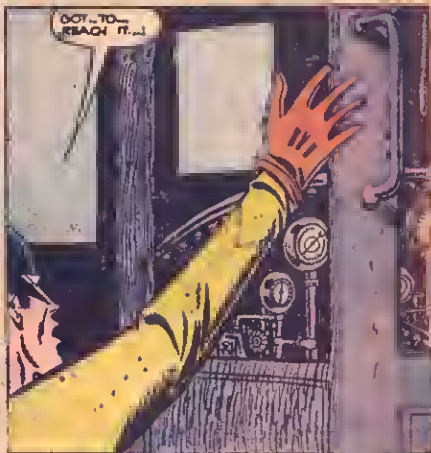
QUICK THEN, HELP ME STRIP THE GEAR OFF MY HORSE TO LIGHTEN HIM! THERE'S A CHANCE HE'LL MIGHT CATCH IT BY CLIPPING THROUGH EAGLE GAP!

DIAMOND, IF YOU CAN STOP THAT TRAIN, I SWEAR MY MAN WILL NEVER FIGHT AGAIN!



IF I DON'T, HARDING, YOU'D BETTER START RIDING, BECAUSE I WON'T REST UNTIL I FIND YOU--ADIOS!





**IT'S AMAZING**



COMES IN  
VIVIDLY COLORED  
WATER-RESISTANT  
BOX FOR WINDOW  
OR TABLE

ACTUAL SIZE:  
9" x 2 1/4" x 2 1/4"



**10 Plants**  
YOURS FOR ONLY  
**\$1.69**

Take advantage of this sensational low price! Order your Cactus Garden today—on Guarantee of Satisfaction or your Money Back!

**SEND NO MONEY**  
**MICHIGAN BULB CO.**

Dept. SB-1517, Grand Rapids 2, Michigan

How this Colorful  
Blooming

**CACTUS  
GARDEN**

Adds Beauty to any room!

Picture this unusual Cactus Garden blooming in your own home... 10 healthy, growing Cactus Plants that require very little care, yet last for years! These plants are of many varieties and should produce beautiful desert blooms such as illustrated. Now, yours complete with a gay 4-color, hand painted Mexican cardboard box (50 cubic inch capacity) to grow them in! No pot needed! Order your Cactus Garden right away at this bargain price of only \$1.69! Send No Money!



**RUSH THIS COUPON TODAY**

Michigan Bulb Company, Dept. SB-1517  
Grand Rapids 2, Michigan

Rush me your amazing Cactus Garden bargain, on guarantee of money back in full if I am not delighted.

- ☐ Send C. O. D. (plus postage)  
☐ \$1.69 enclosed. (Michigan Bulb pays postage)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zone \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

THE KIDNAPERS OF THE PROMISERS  
WERE ALMOST INSURMOUNTABLE,  
EVEN WITHOUT THE CONSTANT ATTACKS  
OF BRUTAL OUTLAWS, WHO LIVED ON  
THE BOOTY OF WAGON TRAINS THEY  
ATTACKED! TWO OF THE MOST NO-  
TORIOUS AND HEARTLESS OF THESE  
LAND PIRATES WERE "COOKSEY"  
ALMONSON AND "CHUCK" HOGES, WHOSE  
RAIDS WERE MAKING TRAVEL THROUGH  
THE OHIO VALLEY IMPOSSIBLE, UNTIL  
BOOBY DART AND ALONZO  
CHANCE COULD BRING THEM TO  
JUSTICE AT THE END  
OF A ROPE!

COONEY  
ALINSON

• CHUCK •  
HOGGS

ART BY FRED  
GONCONDES

**A  
TRUE  
WILD WEST  
STORY**

**CAVE  
INN**

UNCLE SAM  
TOLD ME TO GET  
UP COURT WHEREVER  
I FOUND YOU - ~~BEFORE~~  
WE'RE HANDING YOU -  
RIGHT NOW! YOU CAN  
TAKE YOUR REPORT  
TO THE DEVIL!

OURTYE  
L'LOOK, MISTER,  
I CAN'T GET AWAY  
WITH THIS - I GOT  
A PROMPT TO A  
COURT TRIAL. I'M  
GOING TO REPORT  
THIS TO THE  
GOVERNMENT.

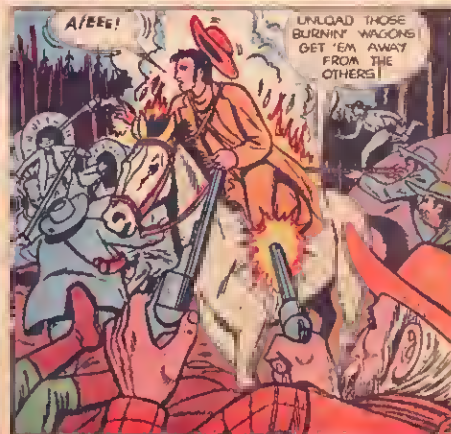
WASHINGTON, D.C., 1839. PRESIDENT MARTIN VAN BUREN  
SUMMONED COLONEL GEORGE LANE TO THE WHITE HOUSE  
ON A SERIOUS AND URGENT MATTER...

ONE OF THESE BANDS HAS A GRIM SENSE OF HUMOR. COLONEL! ALONG THE OHIO TRAIL THEIR LEADER, A BOOKE NAMED MUNSON, HAS POSTED SIGNS IMITATING TRAVELLERS TO VISIT HIS INN! YOU CAN SEE WHAT A TEMPTATION IT IS TO WEARY WAGON TRAIN CREWS!

IF THEY ACCEPT THE INVITATION,  
THEY ARE SET UPON AND ROBBED!

WORSE! MANY OF THE  
MEN ARE MURDERED FOR  
TRYING TO RESIST! I NEEDN'T  
TELL YOU, COLONEL LANE,  
THAT UNLESS WE CLEAN OUT  
THOSE RUFFRANS, WE'RE GOING  
TO HAVE DIFFICULTY GETTING  
PEOPLE TO SETTLE WEST OF  
THE MISSOURI BORDER!

ALL DO THERE AS  
SOON, AS I CAN, MR.  
PRESIDENT, BUT MEAN-  
WHILE, I SHALL ASSIGN  
A SCOUT TO ACCOMPANY  
EACH WAGON TRAIN!





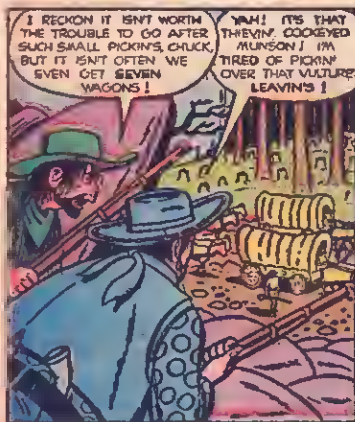
WORDSEY, HIGGINS! GET THE EMPTY WAGON TRAINS DOWN TO THE RIVER AND BURN 'EM! THE REST OF YA GET ON WITH THE BURNIN'!



SEVERAL DAYS LATER...

ANOTHER TRAIN, CHIEF! BUT ONLY SEVEN WAGONS THIS TIME...

NOTHIN' WORTH BOTHERIN' WITH HILL! LEAVE THIS ONE FOR HOGGOS!



I RECKON IT ISN'T WORTH THE TROUBLE TO GO AFTER SUCH SMALL PICKINS, CHUCK, BUT IT ISN'T OFTA WE EVEN GET SEVEN WAGONS!

YAH! IT'S THAT THEVIN, COOKEYED MUNSUN! I'M TIRED OF PICKIN' OVER THAT VULTURE'S LEAVINS!



WE GOT AS MANY MEN AS MUNSUN, HAMMOND— ONLY WERE IN A BAD LOCATION! FROM NOW ON, WE'RE GOIN' OUT TO MEET THE WAGONS BEFORE THEY GET TO "CAVE INN"! IF HE DON'T LIKE IT, LET 'EM FIGHT US!



IT'S HOGGOS! HE'S OUT IN ON OUR BUSINESS, COOKEYED! HE AN' HIS MEN JUST CARTURED TWENTY-FOUR WAGONS!

WOW! EVERYBODY OUT! AND READY TO RIDE! WE'RE GOIN' TO GO SOME SHOOTIN'!



WE WON'T MAKE OUT SO GOOD THAT WAY— TRYIN' TO FIGHT IT OUT WITH 'EM! THEY'LL JUST HOLE UP IN THEIR CAVER...

YEAH, AND WE'D LOSE TOO MANY MEN DIGGIN' 'EM OUT! I GOT ANOTHER IDEA, HILL— I WANT YOU TO BURN A MESSAGE TO HOGGOS!



...AN COOKEYED SAYS IF YOU AREN'T TOO YELLOW, COME TO HIS PLACE 'AN FIGHT IT OUT WITH HIM, MAN TO MAN!

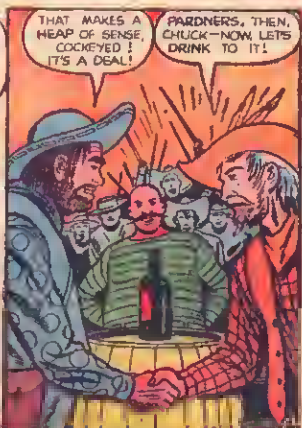
HA! HA! TELL HIM COOT 'LL BE THERE! HA! HA! WITH HIS EYES, TH' SAREST PLACE WILL BE WHERE HE THINKS HE'S AHEAD!

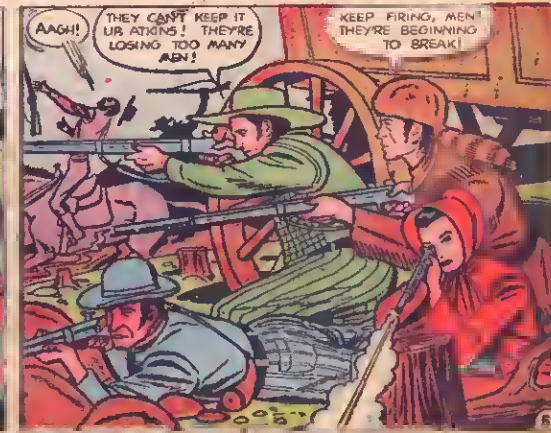
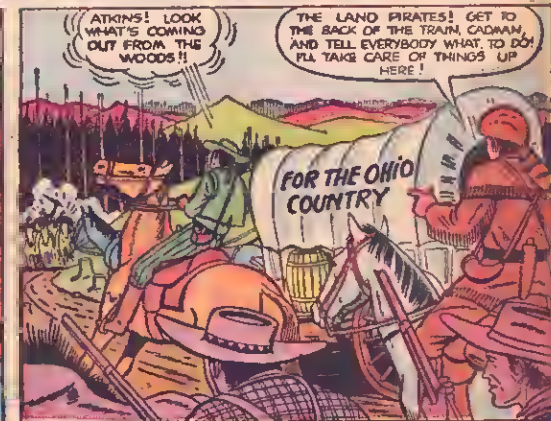
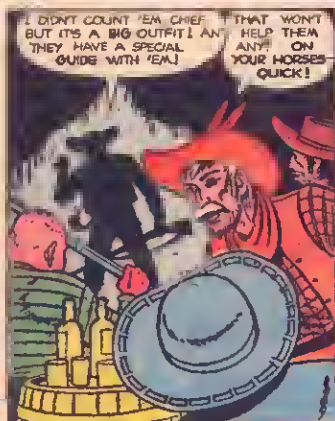


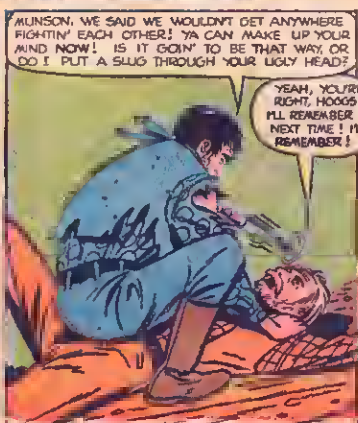
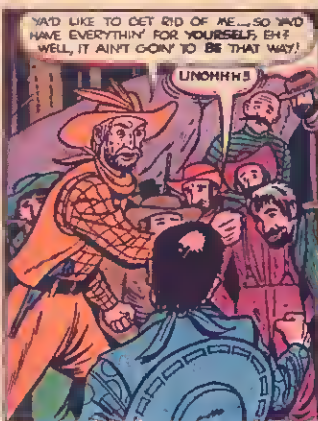
MEANWHILE, AT FORT HAYS, KENTUCKY...

MY MEN AND I ARE STARTING OUT IN SEVERAL DAYS, ATKINS— JUST AS SOON AS UELTANANT WARD GETS HERE WITH THE RE-INFORCEMENTS! TILL THEN WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU TO TAKE THESE PEOPLE THROUGH SAFELY TO MISSOURI!

I'VE BEEN GIVIN' THEM INSTRUCTIONS ON FIGHTIN' AMBUSH! THERE'LL BE TROUBLE FOR ANYBODY TRYIN' TO ATTACK US!







YEAH, IT SOUNDS LIKE OUR ONLY CHANCE TO KEEP 'EM FROM ORGANIZING A FIGHT AGAINST US! GOOD THING WE THOUGHT OF IT!

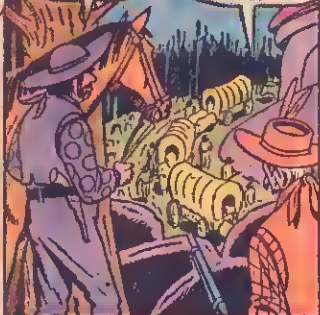
HUH? SURE, COCKEYED, WE GOT BRAINS!

THEY HAVE TO GO THROUGH MACKLIN PASS! ANY OTHER WAY'D TAKE THEM A HUNDRED MILES OFF THE TRAIL!

THE BOYS ARE WAITIN' ON BOTH SIDES! EVEN IF THERE WAS ROOM ENOUGH TO TURN A WAGON AROUND, THEY WOULDN'T HAVE TIME!

EVERYBODY'S GETTIN' KIND OF TIRED, ATKINS! ARE WE GOIN' TO STOP SOON?

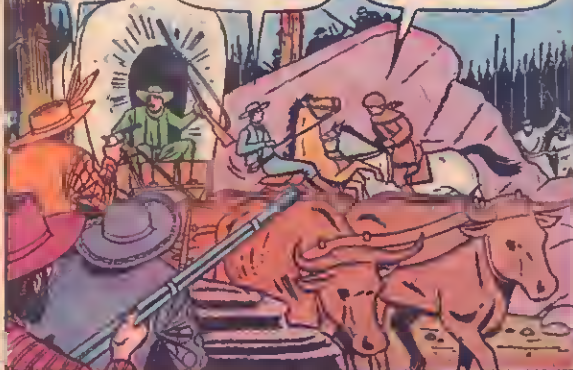
FIVE MORE MILES, BENTLEY! THEN WE'RE GOIN' TO WAIT FOR COLONEL LANE! WE'LL NEED THE REST, 'CAUSE WE'RE LIKELY TO HAVE SOME HARD FIGHTIN' TO DO!



COME UP, OR WE'LL KILL EVERY ONE OF YA!

ATKINS! WE'VE BEEN TRICKED! WE'VE GOT TO MAKE A DASH!

THERE ISN'T A CHANCE, BENTLEY! WE'RE TRAPPED! THEY'D SLAUGHTER US!

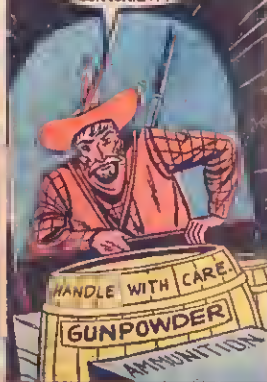


IF YOU CLEAR OUT OF THIS WAGON, MA'AM, YA WON'T GET HURT!

GET EVERY HORSE INCLUDING THE GUIDES! DON'T LEAVE THEM ANY GUNS OR THEY MAY TAKE POT SHOTS AT US!



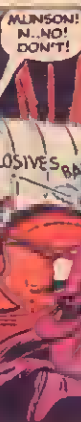
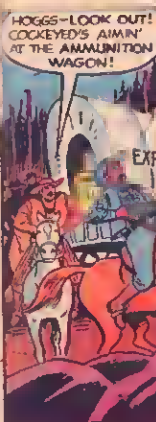
WELL, NOW IF THIS AIN'T RIGHT CONVENIENT!



CHUCK, YOU TAKE THE TAIL END OF THE TRAIN! I'LL TAKE THE LEAD!

ALL RIGHT, COCKEYED! YOU AFRAID THEY MIGHT THROW STONES AT YA FROM BEHIND? HA, HA! THE BOYS ARE BEGINNING TO THINK YOU'RE YELLOW!





ABOUT SIX HOURS LATER, COLONEL LANE AND HIS SOLDIERS CAUGHT UP WITH MUNSON'S LATEST VICTIMS.

YOU DID THE RIGHT THING NOT PUTTING UP A FIGHT, ATKINS! I WANT TO ORGANIZE THE MEN INTO A FORGE, BUT IT WON'T DO ANY GOOD WITHOUT GUNS!

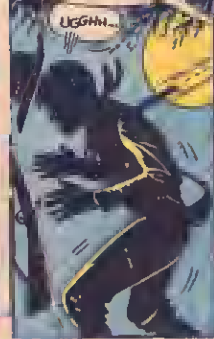
WE THREW OUR GUNS INTO THE BUSHES, COLONEL, BUT WE HAVE NO HORSES! IT'LL BE NIGHT BEFORE WE CAN REACH 'CAVE INN' ON FOOT!



IF WE CAN WAIT TILL MORNING WE'LL HAVE 'EM TRAPPED, BUT THAT GUARD MIGHT SPOT US BEFORE THEN!



GOT HIM, COLONEL! NOW WE CAN PARK RIGHT OUTSIDE THOSE CAVES TILL DAYLIGHT!



HUH! HOW IN BLAZES DID YOU GET HERE?

WHAT'S THE MATTER, MUNSON? YOU DON'T LOOK SO HAPPY TO SEE US!

GET THEM ALL OUT HERE! WE'LL GIVE THEM A TRIAL-THAT'S MORE THAN THEIR VICTIMS GOT!



GIMME A CHANCE, WILL YA? LET ME TALK IT OVER WITH YA!

YOU'VE HAD YOUR TRIAL, MUNSON- AND YOUR SAY! YOU'VE BEEN FOUND GUILTY AS CHARGED AND YOU'RE GOING TO DIE FOR YOUR CRIMES! THIS TERRITORY MUST BE MADE SAFE FOR LAW-ABIDING FOLK!



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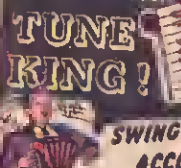


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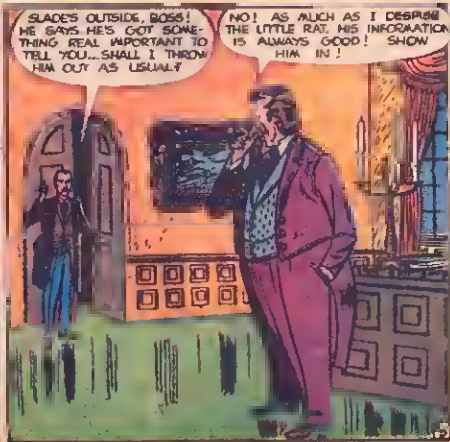
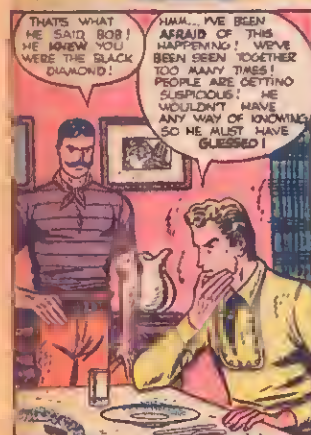
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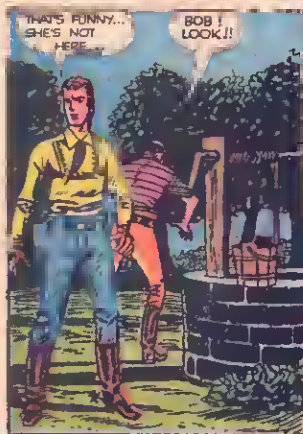
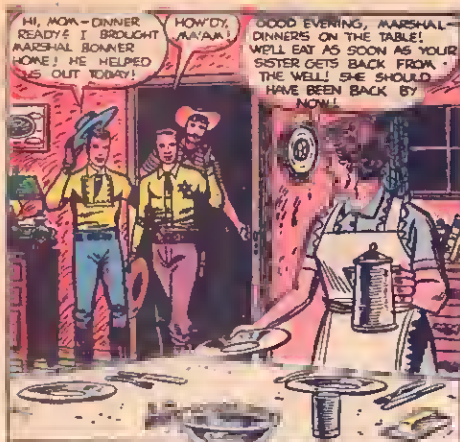
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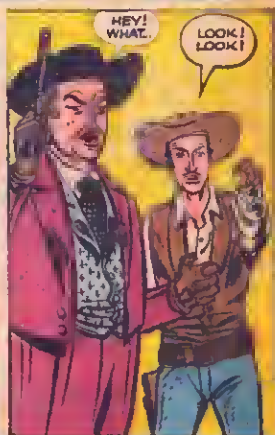
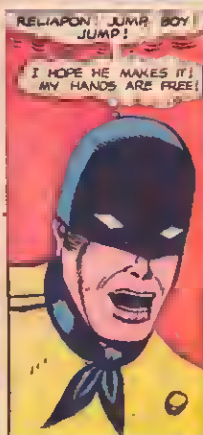






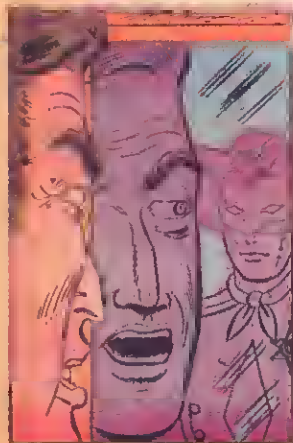
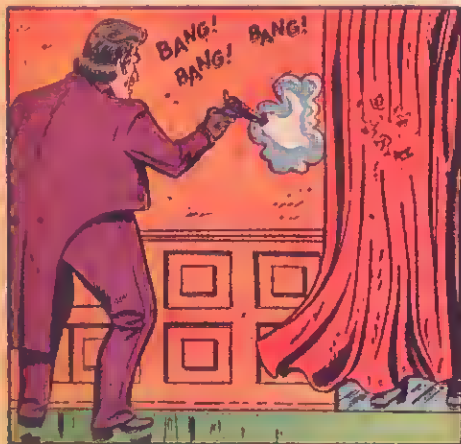












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# POSSUM IN POLITICS!

EVER since Possum Nublick had hit the booming gold town of Moccasin Gulch, he had been about the most worthless, sorry no-good the town had seen—and that in a place where muckers were thick as fleas. There was one difference between him and the others. The average newcomer, no matter how disreputable or how lazy, was at least energetic and ambitious when it came to bunting for gold. Otherwise, why make the long and arduous journey to Moccasin Gulch? But Possum didn't even have that. How he got there, nobody knew, but they did know that he had been very much in evidence—in a most obnoxious way—since he had arrived six months before. His arrival itself was enough to fix him in the scornful minds of the citizenry . . .

Joe Garrigan, the hot-tempered bar-keep at the Gold Coin Saloon, had been completely baffled all evening. His whiskey was disappearing faster than it was being paid for. The bottles were out on the bar, according to established Western custom, but that wasn't where the trouble lay. Everytime he'd pull a fresh bottle out from the stocks under the bar, he'd find it half empty—yet no one had been behind the bar except himself! He couldn't figure it out.

"What's the matter, Joe? What d'ya keep looking under the bar for? Snakes? Is your own liquor gettin' the best of ya?" cried Sam Hart, a customer. There was a burst of raucous laughter.

"Keep your trap shut, Sam!" yelled Garrigan, as he glared back. "Somebody's stealing my whiskey and I can't figure out who. Just be careful it ain't you!"

"It's your second nature that's drinking it all up, Joe, and ya don't even know it!" There was more laughter, but this time it was interrupted by the crash of a bottle. Joe looked down at his feet, and there saw a trickle of liquor coming out of the cupboard where he stored his little-used bar equipment. With a roar he opened the doors. There, crouched at the bottom, and very, very drunk, was the small, round figure of Newcomer Nublick.

"What the . . ." shrieked Garrigan, as he reached down and grabbed Nublick by the collar and dragged him out. "Why, you low-down, thievin' so-and-so! You drunken no-good, playin' possum with my whiskey. Well, I'll show you what I do with *possums* like you!" He cuffed poor Nublick back and forth. Then, with a mighty heave, he lifted him up and hung him by the belt from an enormous coat rack fastened to the wall. "There you are, up in a tree where you belong. And you can stay there until you

sóber up enough to start washin' dishes for me!"

From that day on, Nublick was known only as "Possum." The unhappy experience didn't quench Nublick's everlasting bragging and conning, nor did it make him settle down to honest labor. Nobody could quite figure out what he lived on, unless it was from his petty thievery and his small winnings at poker.

Then the tables were turned.

One night Possum Nublick struck it rich, although he didn't know it at the time. It was one of the rare nights when he seemed to be picking up more than one poker pot. To be sure, he wasn't much ahead, but he had cleaned out at least one grizzled old miner, Sam Hart. Old Sam threw in his last poker chip, but it wasn't enough. "Tell ya what I'll do. I'll match a fourth interest in my claim against the pot." Possum laughed, "Why, that claim isn't worth as much as the stakes you've posted on it. Ob well, it's a small pot. Make it a half interest, and I'll let you stay in." Possum picked up the pot a minute later, topping Sam's two pair with three of a kind. He held Sam's note for half-ownership of the claim in such low regard he almost threw it away. But luckily for him, he didn't. Forgotten, the note remained in his pocket for two months—until the day Old Sam came roaring into town.

"I've done it!" he shouted, "I've done it! I'm rich! My claim has gold, real gold! Tons of it!" His joy was dampened only by the sight of Possum—and the realization that he would have to share his wealth with this shabby, garrulous mucker.

"Well, I made you rich, too, Possum," said Old Sam begrudgingly, "but don't give me no thanks for it. I sure wouldn't have done it if I'd known."

Possum seemed to acquire new stature with the news. He was too stunned to speak at first, then he was filled with wonder.

"Why, why I'm a *somebody*," he whispered to himself. "I'm not just old Possum Nublick now. I'm a man of means!" Over and over he repeated his phrases before full realization came to him and he started to celebrate.

Possum's ego grew as fast as his riches did, and before long the town longed for the peaceful days when he was nothing but a bum, even though a noisy one.

"Why, he acts like the king of the county!" complained Joe Garrigan, as he huddled over his beer with a couple of cronies. "Remember that day I strung him up on that coat rack? Yesterday he came in here, clapped me on the back, took a couple of swigs that half-emptied my

bottle of best bourbon, and lifted a cigar out of my pocket. Then he says, 'Garrigan, you always were a generous chap. You shared your hospitality with me. The least I can do is repay you. When I'm mayor of Moccasin Gulch, which honor I expect shortly, I shall make you county coroner. With that embalming fluid you serve here, the job should be a natural!' Then he tossed me a dime—for a huck's worth of whiskey, mind you," continued Garrigan—"and paraded out of here like he was the cock of the walk! The nerve of the guy!"

"Yeah," replied Old Sam. "And the thing that kills me is that it's *my money* that's filling his sails. He's serious about running for mayor. He's been glad-handing all over the town. He's getting somewhere, too. A lot of these hill rats think that big show of his is real stuff!"

Tim McGregor tossed off his beer. "If that guy takes over this town, all of the *responsible* citizens like us might just as well clear out of town. He'll ruin it. He's talking about changing the name to Slipper City. He won't allow nobody to call him 'Possum' now. It's *Sylvester*, if you please!"

The three sat mournfully moping, when Sheriff Connally strode through the swinging doors. "A quick one, Garrigan! I've had about all I can take this afternoon. Possum had me cornered and he . . . Hey! What's the matter. You all look like you'd seen your claims go under water!"

"The same thing that's troubling you, Connally," groaned Garrigan. "Possum Nuhlick."

"Huh! You haven't seen anything yet," said the Sheriff as he joined the group. "He's out in the square now, making a speech. He claims he's goin' to make Moccasin Gulch the Acropolis of the West—and everybody's fallin' for it!"

Long after the others had left, Garrigan mulled over the prospect of Possum Nuhlick running Moccasin Gulch. Then, calling his wife to take over the bar for a couple of hours, he left. First he sought out Old Sam.

"Sam," he said. "If I remember rightly, you started a shaft over toward the creek bed. What ever happened to that?"

"I haven't thought much about it since I made the big strike at the Poker Luck," replied Sam. "I sure wish that was the claim that had come through, instead of the one I had to split with Possum. It doesn't amount to anything, though. I went in about twenty feet. There wasn't a sign of anything that was even a distant cousin of gold ore."

"It's not much use to you, then, huh?"

"Nope! Want it?"

Garrigan's eyes twinkled. "I might. Listen to this here plan of mine." The two huddled together. Sam started to snicker, then burst into a loud guffaw. "I'm with you, Garrigan. We'll scotch that mucker yet!"

The Gold Coin customers were astounded when Garrigan came out as the leader of Possum's political campaign. His switch in sympathy baffled some, but enraged even more—particularly Sheriff Connally and Old Sam, who spearheaded the opposition. Soon Possum was counting on him as his strongest cohort. His confidence in Garrigan was clinched when the bartender suggested a sure plan for putting Possum into office. "Possum—I mean, Nuhlick," he said, "I've got a bit of property down by the creek. It looks pretty promising, but I haven't got the time or money to develop it. Now you, you're a born miner, a born manager, a big investor, one might say. There's a fortune in this, if you'll take it over. But you want to run the county, too. I'll split my claim three ways—one third for you for mining it, one third for me 'cause it's my land, and one third to clinch the mayoralty."

"What're ya talking about, Garrigan?" asked Possum. "Buying votes?"

"In a way, yes!" Garrigan replied. "Promise the people of the county one-third of the profits of the mine for developing the town! They'll love it! You'll have the election in your lap."

\* \* \*

By the night before election, feeling was running high, to put it mildly. But Possum's mine had caught the fancy of all the hundreds of miners who hadn't made their lucky strike yet—which meant most of the town. Possum's crews were already digging away. Reports of the first ore out of the mine were fabulous—even richer than the Poker Luck—and they still hadn't hit the main lode. The campaign was to be highlighted with a forty-man crew digging all night, accompanied by hands, speeches and free beer. The climax was Possum's midnight speech.

"... to the enlightened citizenry of Moccasin Gulch, soon to be glorified throughout the world as Slipper City, I give the wealth of her own hills, the profits of the earth on which she grew," cried Possum. There was wild applause. "We'll pave the streets with gold, shingle the roofs with gilt flake, build . . ."

Possum's flowery oratory was interrupted. The foreman of the crew rushed up to the platform. "We've hit it! The *main lode*! It's the biggest thing in Moccasin—I mean—Slipper City! Wait till you see it! They're bringing some out right now!" Waves of cheers and shouts greeted the announcement. All eyes turned toward the entrance to the shaft. Greedy eyes centered on Possum, who was almost hysterical with power and luck.

"Here you are, everybody!" he shouted. "The gold I promised you, the gold that's going to make Slipper City the Acropo . . . the Acro . . ." His words strangled in his throat. He stared at the shaft dumbfounded. He couldn't understand what his eyes were telling him.

"Possums!" A voice at the front called out.

"Hundreds of possums!" There was silence for a moment, then wave upon wave of laughter—raucous, drunken laughter that echoed to the hills. The small, furred, frightened animals ran frantically through the crowd, adding to the hysteria. "Possums! The Possum Bonanza! Old Possum Nublick is a magician. He turns gold into possums!" It was hours before the laughter and mockery died down. Nublick had long since departed, completely humiliated.

The next day, Connally was elected by a tremendous majority. Nublick wasn't seen all day long. He didn't dare come out in public. The jibes and jokes were too much for his flimsy ego.

After Garrigao cleared the Gold Coin of the celebrating customers, he and Sam Hart settled down for a nightcap.

"Well, Sam," said the bartender. "How much do I owe you for the possums—and where inarnation did you get 'em?"

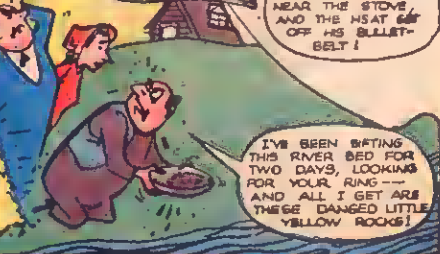
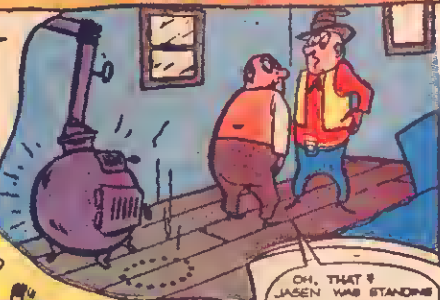
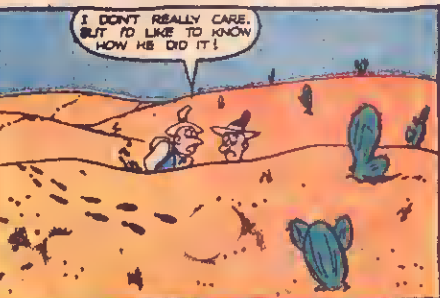
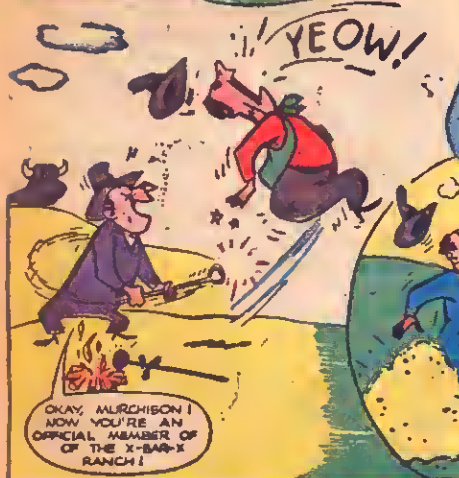
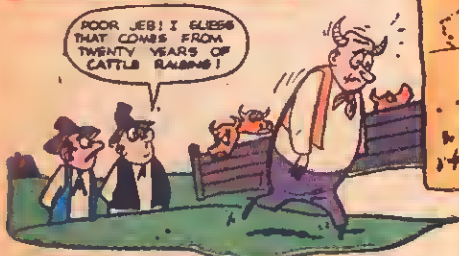
"I got my brother in Virginia to buy 'em up at five bucks a head! It set me back almost a thousand dollars, what with transporting 'em here, but it sure was worth it!"

The two rose, and Garrigan blew out the lantern. "I'd give my eye teeth to know what Possum's thinking about right now. I bet it'll be a long time before he tries that 'Sylvester' stuff in Moccasin City. Oh, by the way, I'll get my boys to take the ore we salted Possum's mine with back over to the Poker Luck. And thanks for the loan, Sam!"

"Any time, Garrigan," replied Sam. "I've had more fun out of that small load of ore than all the rest of the mine put together! Incidentally, you'll be glad to know that Possum came to see me to-day. He sold his half interest back to me—for a lot more than the price of that poker game, to be sure—but it's sure good to know he's clearing out of here. I bet he's sick of the company of his fellow possums!"

THE END

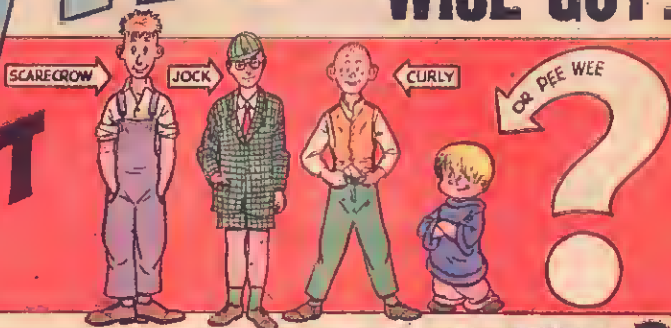
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10th PRIZE

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NOW SPOT REDUCER WORKS. The Spot Reducer uses the age old principle of massage. It breaks down excess fatty tissue, tones the muscles and relaxes and the increased awakened blood circulation carries away waste fat economically, simply, pleasantly. In a recent Medical Book, edited by the chairman and two other members of Council on Physical Therapy of AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, the following is stated on page 34, Chapter 18, Vol. 3.1. "Beyond all question something can be done by massage to reduce local deposits of FAT . . . There can however, be no question that massage applied to the region of the HIPS soothes and eases, reduces the amount of fatty deposits in this region". This book is a reliable unbiased source of information and many doctors refer to it for the last word in Physical Therapy. This prompted us to develop and have doctors test the SPOT REDUCER.

### HERE IS PROOF POSITIVE THAT THE SPOT REDUCER WORKS!

In recent tests made by outstanding licensed Medical Doctors on more than 100 people with the use of Spot Reducer everyone lost pounds and inches in a few short weeks, in HIPS, ABDOMEN, LEGS, ARMS, BUTTOCKS, etc. And the users say: "IT WAS FUN AND THEY ENJOYED IT." The Spot Reducer worked as well on men as it did on women. The Spot Reducer way controls weight, once down to normal it helps retain your new "SLIM FIGURE" as long as you like. Look and feel better, see bulges disappear within the first weeks. The beauty of this scientifically designed SPOT REDUCER is that the method is so simple and easy, the results quick, sure and harmless. Thousands have lost weight this way in hips, abdomen, legs, arms, buttocks, etc. The same method used by stage, screen and radio personalities and leading reducing salons. The Spot Reducer can be used in the privacy of your own room in your spare time.

### MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE WITH A 10-DAY FREE TRIAL

If the "Spot Reducer" doesn't do the wonders for you as it has for others, if you don't lose weight and inches where you want to lose it most, if you're not 100% delighted with the results, your money will be returned at once.

## MAIL COUPON NOW!

The "Spot Reducer" Co., Dept. 141  
871 Broad St., Newark, New Jersey

Send me at once, for \$2 cash, check or money order, the "Spot Reducer" and your famous Special Formula Body Massage Cream, postpaid. If I am not 100% satisfied, my money will be refunded.

Name

Address

City  State

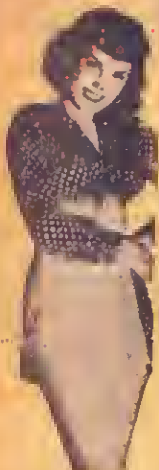
☐ I enclose \$5.00. Send the Giant Size Body Massage Cream with My Spot Reducer.

SENT ON APPROVAL

# FREE

A large size jar of Special Formula Body Massage Cream will be included FREE with your order for the "Spot Reducer."

Miss Nancy Mace, Bronx, N. Y., says: "I went from size 18 dress to a size 12 with the use of the Spot Reducer. I am glad I used it."



# SURE AS SHOOTIN'

by **CLAUDE MOORE**  
DRAWN ESPECIALLY FOR  
"BLACK DIAMOND"



**APACHE  
BILL**

MADE A LIVING BY ACTING AS A  
GUIDE FOR STRANGERS! A REAL  
DESPERADO IN APPEARANCE, HE GOT HIS NAME (HE SAID)  
FOR BEING SUCH A GOOD INDIAN FIGHTER! ACTUALLY  
THIS FELLOW COULDN'T RIDE A HORSE, COULDN'T  
SHOOT STRAIGHT AND COULDN'T TELL AN INDIAN  
FROM A MEXICAN!

WOMEN  
OF THE  
OLD WEST  
KNITTED THEIR STOCKINGS  
OUT OF BUFFALO HAIR!  
- THEY WERE GOOD  
FOR 2 YEARS OF HARD  
WEAR!



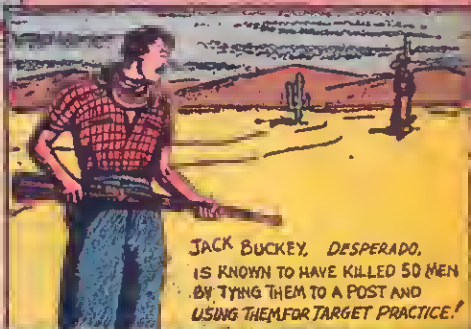
C.M. MOORE

SAM TUCKER of Sheridan WAS TRIED IN COURT  
AND FOUND NOT GUILTY OF A CATTLE RUSTLING CHARGE  
- BUT SAM HAD A FEW NASTY THINGS TO SAY ABOUT  
JUDGE LYNCH AS HE WAS LEAVING THE COURTROOM!  
THE JUDGE ORDERED THAT TUCKER BE BROUGHT  
BACK INTO THE COURTROOM, CHARGED HIM WITH  
CONTEMPT OF COURT AND SENTENCED HIM TO BE  
HANGED. — AND HE WAS HANGED!



PONY EXPRESS  
RIDER  
FRANCIS ABBEY  
RODE HORSEBACK  
5 DAYS 13 HOURS  
STOPPING ONLY  
LONG ENOUGH  
TO CHANGE  
HORSES!

800 MILES  
Santa Fe, New Mexico  
Independence, Mo.



JACK BUCKEY, DESPERADO,  
IS KNOWN TO HAVE KILLED 50 MEN  
BY TYING THEM TO A POST AND  
USING THEM FOR TARGET PRACTICE!

HERE LIES  
DU JOE - HE WAS  
MURDERED

AND THE MAN  
WHO DUN IT

THESE TWO GRAVES OUT IN THE  
DESERT NEAR CALIFORNIA  
TELL THEIR OWN STORY!


It sounds unbelievable, but it's legal! 36 different United States stamps ranging in age as far back as over 60 years and in face value as high as one dollar. All postages, commemorative and off mails included. Nothing else. WWII Jap Occupation of Philippines. all for only 10c to approval applicants. Please state whether approvals shall consist of U S or foreign stamps or both.

GROUP 01000 CB, 200 SOUTH AVE., N. Y. 10, N. Y., 001-441

Amazing Roosevelt commemorative collection Free  
Postage 3c. Approvals, Hurry—one to a customer!  
**GRAMATAN STAMP CO., Dept. C**  
Box 1902 Church Street Anson, New York 8, N. Y.

**FREE \$22.50 CATALOG VALUE**  
**ABSOLUTELY FREE**

including Airmobile, Pinetree, Commemorative. Also free. International Airline & Scott Catalogues. Freebings. Free mystery sets to \$1.00 value. Free \$5.00 Presidential. All free to approval applicants buying under Special Raymax plan.

  
**RAYMAX**  
 127 C. William Street  
 New York 7, N. Y.

**25** GENUINE ALL DIFFERENT  
**SWITZERLAND**  
given to anyone sending for approvals  
HIGHLAND Box 516 Sierra Madre, Calif.

**500 STAMPS FOR ONLY 10¢**  
 INCLUDES STAMPS CATALOGUING UP  
 TO 25¢ EACH! ALSO APPROVALS.  
**MYSTIC STAMP COMPANY**  
 Camden 65, New York

**"LION" TRIANGLE—FIRST U.S.**  
Also Diamond, Conel Zeno, Galena, Rein-  
forced, Sea Marina showing 1st U.S. Stamp.  
etc., in Lot. 32 different 54. Approvals.  
**GRAYSON STAMP CO.**  
Box 553-K, Sherman, Texas

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All different, from 1893 Columbian to present day issues. The U. S. Commemorative collection only 5c to approval applicants.  
S. A. ENGEL & CO., 30 Park Row, New York 7, N.Y.  
STAMPS OVER 50 YEARS OLD

10 DIFFERENT STAMPS all over 30 years old  
PLUS \$1.52 and \$5 U.S. Revenue  
One packet of Revenue Stamps. Everything  
only 10c to approval buyers.  
Salem Stamp Co. Box 53-L, W. Farm, Broom 60, N.Y.

This month the theme of our stamp contest is "MY FAVORITE STAMP". To the 25 best replies I will send a packet of 100 different Chinese stamps.

Here are the simple rules. In 25 words or less tell which stamp is your favorite and why you have chosen it as your favorite.

Originality and neatness will count. Send your entry on post card or letter to

**STAMP PAGE EDITOR**  
**Lay Gleason Comic Group**  
**114 East 32nd Street**  
**New York 16, N. Y.**

The entires for this month's contest should be post marked by February 28, 1950.

by SIDNEY M. ELIAS

ONE of the largest existing birds of flight, is the condor. Its average length is four feet from its beak to the end of its tail, while its wings have a spread of approximately nine feet from tip to tip. It is a member of the vulture family and enjoys carrion (decaying flesh of dead animals). One condor of average size has been observed to devour a calf, a sheep, and a dog during a single week. When in search of food they are known to attack sheep, goats, and deer. Shepherds hunt them down when they observed in their vicinity in order to protect their flock. The condor is easily caught for it is a stupid bird being more intent on a feast than on its own safety. Because of this fact, a barricade is made of sticks and stones and a dead animal is placed within it. When the condor sees the carcass it swoops down for a feast. Having devoured the animal and often to excess, the extra weight requires him to make an added run to get off the ground. His flight is thus similar to that of an airplane in which a dash down a runway must be made before it can take to the air. Being blocked by the barricade, the bird cannot easily fly and is captured, or killed. As the condor is a heavy sleeper and sleeps most of the day, many are caught by climbing up a tree and noosing them before they awaken.

The condors are found in South America along the Andes Mountains from the equator to the Straits of Magellan. The favorite roosts are at heights of 10,000 to 16,000 feet and at levels where there is perpetual snow. They are powerful and graceful flyers for they sail in the air without flapping their wings.

Air mail stamps of nearly all the South American countries bordering on the Andes have shown pictures of the condor on their designs. Among these countries are Argentine, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, and Peru. A number of regular postage stamps of Bolivia have depicted the condor on its designs.

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FLAG SET - PARK SET

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ticulars. TRIBORO STAMP CO., Dept. 47D1  
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**107 DIFFERENT 34**  
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**500 STAMPS For Only 3c**  
to APPROVAL BUYERS. Contains  
stamps worth up to 25c each  
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Also Cook Islands, Indo-China, Syria, Ivory Coast, Philippine "Slave Stamp", Harem, Damascus, Elephant and Pirate Land, Cambodia, etc. ALL FBEE with approvals for 3c postage. Belmont Stamp Co., Dept 15, Washington 18, D.C.

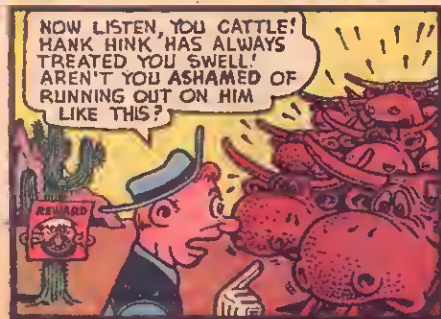
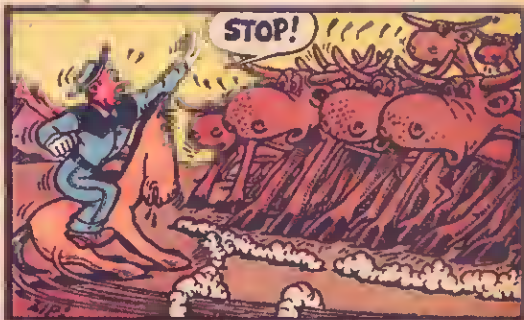
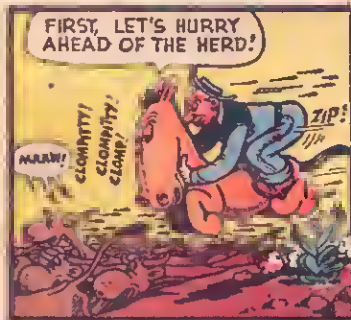
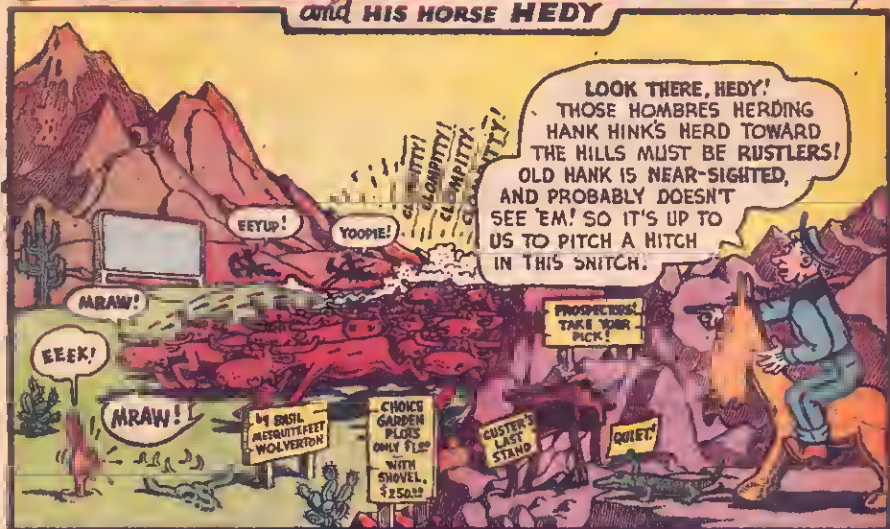
**49** approval applicants.  
V. L. TIPPETT  
1038 Clay Ave., Pelham Manor, N. Y.

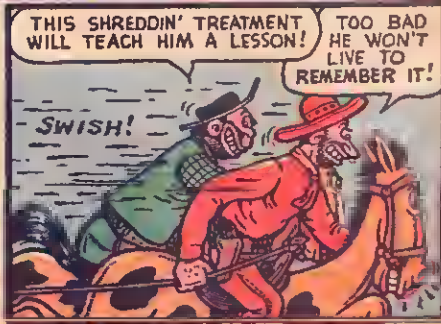
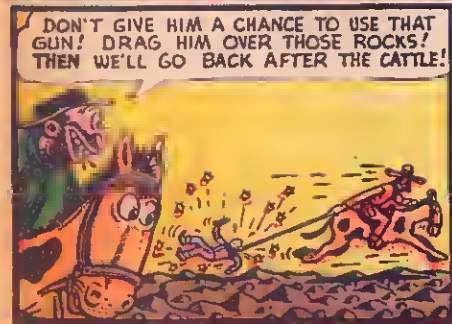
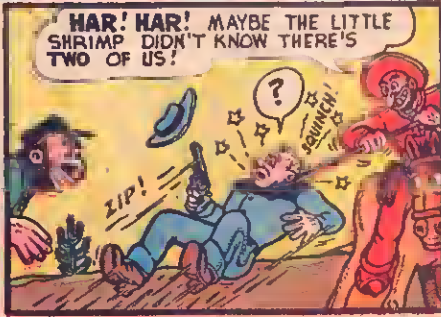
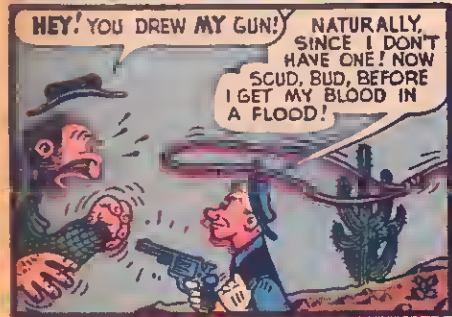
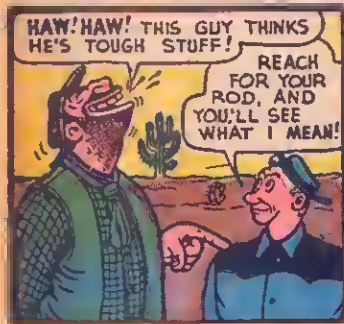
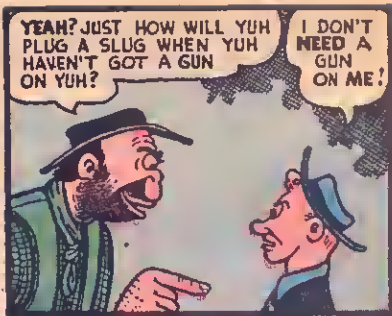
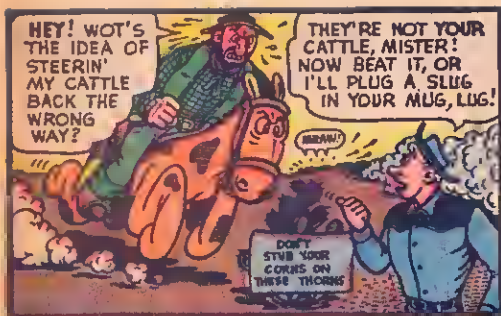
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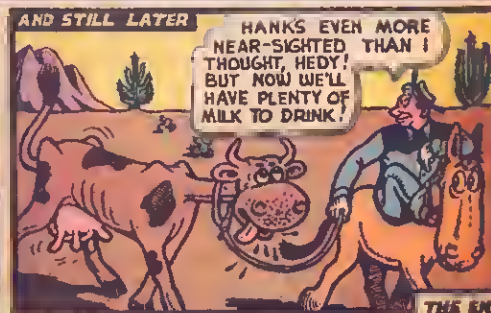
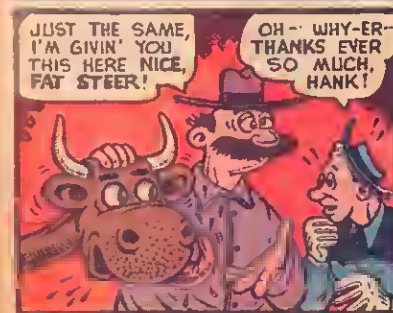
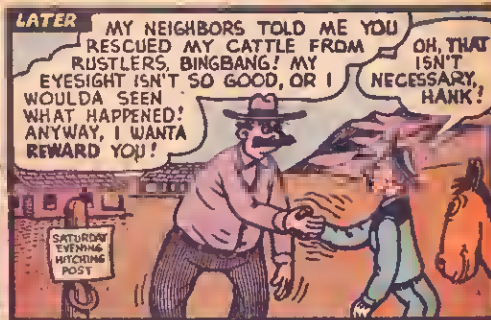
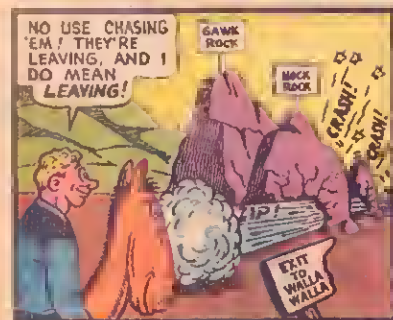
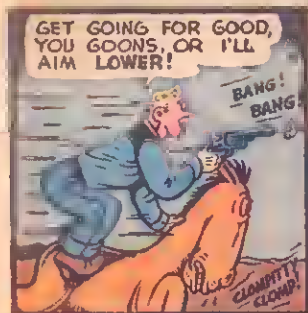
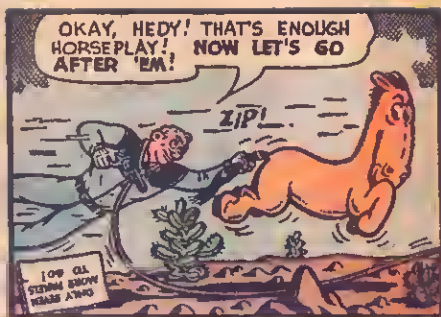
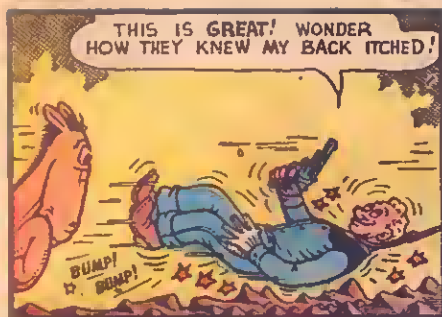
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# BINGBANG BUSTER

and HIS HORSE HEDY







THE END

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STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946 OF BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN, published bi-monthly at New York, N. Y., for October 1, 1949.

State of New York  
County of New York

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and County aforesaid, personally appeared Hannah Schenberg, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that she is the Business Manager of BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN and that the following is, to the best of her knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily, weekly, semi-weekly or tri-weekly newspaper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the acts of March 3, 1933, and July 2, 1946 (sections 537, Penal Laws and Regulations), printed on the reverse of this form, to-wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, Lev Gleason Publications, Inc., 114 E. 32nd St., New York 16, N. Y. Editor: Charles Biro, 107 E. 63rd St., New York 21, N. Y. Managing Editor: Bob Wood, 400 E. 57th St., New York 22, N. Y. Business manager: Hannah Schenberg, 238 E. 23rd St., New York 10, N. Y.

2. That the owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding one percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a firm, company, or other unincorporated concern, its name and address, as well as those of each individual member, must be given.) Lev Gleason Publications, Inc., 114 E. 32nd St., New York 16, N. Y. Leverett S. Gleason, Park Drive, Chappaqua, N. Y. Bella Kimmelfeld, 97-30 63rd Drive, Forest Hills, L. I. Morris Rosenthal, Riverside Memorial Chapel, 76th St. & Amsterdam Ave., N. Y. 23, N. Y. Rosalind Rosenthal, R.D. No. 1, Mt. Kisco, N. Y. Judy Rosenthal, R.D. No. 1, Mt. Kisco, N. Y. Jane Rosenthal, R.D. No. 1, Mt. Kisco, N. Y. Pat Rosenthal, 101 Central Park West, New York 23, N. Y. Ellen J. Rosenthal, 101 Central Park West, New York 23, N. Y. Carol L. Rosenthal, 101 Central Park West, New York 23, N. Y. Peter Rosenthal, 101 Central Park West, New York 23, N. Y.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: None.

4. That the two paragraphs last above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by law.

5. That the average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the twelve months preceding the date shown above is \_\_\_\_\_ (This information is required from daily, weekly, semi-weekly, and tri-weekly newspapers only.)

HANNAH SCHENBERG, Business Mgr.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 14th day of September, 1949  
(SEAL) MANUEL LIEBLICH  
(My commission expires March 30, 1950.)

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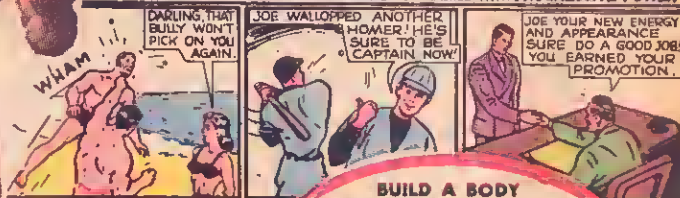
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Kelly, Physical Di-  
rector.  
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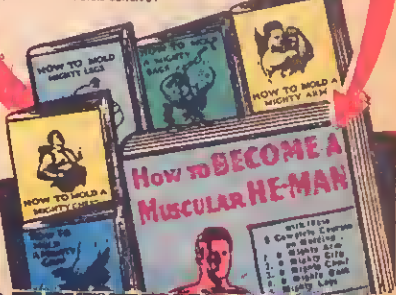
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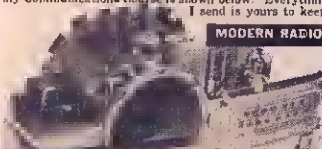
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